

agents. He was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences.

While incarcerated in a Federal prison, a rifle was smuggled in to Peltier. He shot his way out of prison and several days later, after assaulting a ranger and stealing his truck, he was finally recaptured. He was tried and convicted of escape.

Peltier has since appealed his various convictions on numerous occasions. Every time he appeals his conviction, the courts turn him down. The United States Supreme Court has had his case twice. They have turned it down twice without comment.

The record is clear: There are no new facts. These are only old facts, and they have not changed. This man is guilty of murder in cold blood of two FBI agents and he should not be released from jail, Mr. President.

Peltier openly states he feels no guilt, remorse or even regret for the murders. Peltier has lived a life of crime. He has earned and deserves a lifetime of incarceration. Peltier is a murderer without compassion or feeling for his fellow man and in turn he deserves no compassion.

Mr. President, there is no justification for relieving Peltier from his punishment. Our judicial system has spoken in this case again and again and again and again. Leonard Peltier is a vicious, violent and cowardly criminal who hides behind legitimate Native American issues. Leonard Peltier was never a leader in the Native American community. He is simply a thug and a murderer with no respect for human life. Our citizens on and off the reservation must be protected from murderers like Peltier.

Mr. President, since Leonard Peltier could not fool the Federal courts, he is now trying to fool you and the public. Do not let it happen. Turn down that request for clemency.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

#### THE COST OF EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I welcome my colleague from Colorado here tonight as we talk about educating our children.

The topic tonight came out of a process that for some of us began in 1995, where we began a process that was called Education at a Crossroads, where we took a look at the definition of education here in Washington, we took a look at what worked and what was wasted in the Federal programs,

and also what worked and what was wasted at the state and at the local level, and really came to a decision to review some of the information and the documentation that we gathered since 1995 based on a press conference that the Secretary of Education gave last week.

As many of our colleagues know, we are embarked on a plan this year for the second year in a row to try to make sure that we spend no Social Security dollars on general fund expenditures. It looks like we did that in 1999, or came very, very close, for the first time in 40 years, and what we want to do is duplicate that for 2000, so we have embarked on a plan that said we are going to look for a 1 percent savings.

Last week the Secretary of Education came out and said, "If you try to find a 1 percent savings in my department, you cannot find it. It is not there, and any reduction in expenditures in education will come off the backs of our children."

We went to the Education Department on Friday, and there are just two things that I would like everybody to remember as we put this in context, two things. If you remember only two things out of this whole night, other than that we are trying to save 1 percent, remember these two things:

The first is that the Department of Education's books are not auditable. The first is the Department of Education's books are not auditable. We will talk a little bit more about that. But we have got a secretary from a department that has responsibility for \$120 billion of taxpayer money, and he is blasting Congress. But when he goes back to his own department and three Congressmen go over there and ask him and his colleagues and say can you kind of tell us where and how you spend the roughly \$35 billion in appropriations that we give you on an annual basis and the \$85 billion of loans that the Department of Education manages, can you kind of tell us how you manage the taxpayers' dollars, the response is, "I am sorry, but for the last year that we had auditors in taking a look at our books, our books are not auditable."

It means they cannot tell you. The auditors cannot look at the books with any degree of certainty and say that the money that came from the American taxpayer, went through Congress, was entrusted to the employees and the leadership at the Education Department, they cannot tell us where or how that money was spent and that there is no waste, fraud and abuse.

My experience in the private sector tells me any organization that does not have the financial control systems in place to ensure that their books are auditable probably has some waste, fraud or abuse going on. So, number one, the books at the Department of Education, \$120 billion agency, does not have books that are auditable.

The second thing that I would like to just put in context, everything else

that we do tonight is in context of this secretary is going out and saying that this Congress is stopping the raid on Social Security on the backs of our children. Sorry, Mr. Secretary, even when we find that 1 percent savings in the Department of Education, this Congress, yes, this Republican-led Congress, has appropriated \$100 million more for the education of our children than what this President even asked for in his budget.

We recognize and we are willing to invest in our kids' education, but we are not going to invest in programs that do not work or that move decision making to Washington; or, Mr. Secretary, when we give you another \$100 million, you bet we are going to come down to your agency, we are going to help you manage your agency, because you have not been managing it, because you cannot even tell us where the dollars go.

I will yield to my colleague from Colorado, just remembering those two things in context: Their books are not auditable, and Republicans are investing more in education than what the President even asked for in his budget.

Mr. TANCRED. I thank my colleague from Michigan. I wanted to just first of all tell him how much I appreciate his efforts as chairman of the committee, the oversight committee that is entrusted with the responsibility of, just as the name implies, overseeing government operations, specifically in the area of education. He has been diligent in that regard, and I just want to commend him for that. This is another example of where people like my colleague can truly make a difference for all Americans, for Americans all over the Nation.

As I listened to my colleague's reference to the Secretary of Education and how he responded to the request to reduce expenditures by 1 percent in the next fiscal year, and he said that that would be impossible, it could not be done, that if it happened, it would come off the backs of children, you have to think to yourself, really and truly what goes through someone's mind when they actually have to say something like that, when they know fully well that anyone listening, anyone, except perhaps other Members of the cabinet who have all been given the same script, they all say the same things, they cannot find the 1 percent savings. But what do they think America thinks when they say that? Does anyone out there believe that no one in the government of the United States can find 1 percent savings without hurting the actual people that they are given charge to take care of? I do not want to say take care of. Does anyone believe that cannot happen?

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And with this happening at the same day, as I say, this is a script everyone must be getting. All members of the cabinet, I am sure, have been told that they have to say there is no savings.